

[In top left-hand corner is a seal with an eagle carrying the American flag. Above it reads: "Not a star must fall."]

Camp Stephens, Burswick Bay, Louisiana, February 13 1863

Dear Mother,

I read a letter from you or rather from Lute and ~~one~~ Harrison had one from you last Tuesday. I was very glad to hear from you. The letters we got from home now are very few and scattering. It's very strange that you don't get ~~any~~ our letters, for we have written a number but to no purpose. But I guess that they will get to coming more regular in a few days. The trouble is they have to pass through so many different hands that they must get lost. When I wrote you last we were at Tigerville. We had a fine time while we were there but of course we had to leave when we got in a good place. We staid[sic] there just long enough to get recruited up again. If we had staid[sic] there a month longer we would have been so fat that we could not see out of ~~your~~ our eyes. We have all we wanted of every thing "and more too." I never was so fleshy in my life as I am now, and Harrison is the same. He is a great deal healthier than he ever was before. His throat don't trouble him at all as it used to ~~before~~ when he was at home and I never have been sick a day since I have been in the army. I think that is doing well for us. I think our colonel done a good thing in getting us down here. It's a great ways from home. I know that it is very healthy here to what it is in Virginia and another thing we ain't agoing to have so much fighting to do as they have there. For the rebels here are mostly conscript men that were forced into the army and they will not fight. They are deserting most every day and come into our lines every chance they can get. They ~~are~~ hold possession of the oposite[sic] side of the bay from us which is about a mile across. They keep well back from the bay out of range of the gunboat. We can see them come down to shore a most every day on horse back only two or three at a time. We have got four ~~good~~ good gun boats in they bay and they have none. They have one a few days a go[sic] but they were obliged to blow it up for fear we would capture it. It was the "Cotton."

~~Last~~ Yesterday our company and company B went up the Bay through the 6 mile lake. We were onboard of a gunboat. We expected to have a little sckirmish[sic]. It was reported that they were building a small fort there by a darkie that escaped from there and Colonel thought he would stop it.

We didnt[sic] see anything only once ~~we~~ the sailors threw three or four shells into a ~~shu~~ sugar house where there were a few rebel quarters about

the time the second shell struck the house the colonel said he could see them making tracks for the woods that's the nearest we have come to getting into a fight not so near us some of the boys would have like to been. We have been lounging around so long that they begin to want to see a little [?] but I am not particular on that subject. I don't think we shall have any chance for it here.

It is rumored that our company is going to New Orleans for Provost Guard. All we know [?] that the colonel said ~~that~~ the best looking company should go. It sure we are the best looking company and the best drilled in the Regt that is the accomplishment that the col give us yesterday.

We have been paid off again + just before we left Tigerville we got two months pay a check of \$16.00 and a ten dollar "green back."

We will be mustered for pay again in about a week but probably won't get in [?] months and may get it the first of March the regt pay day. Well I must stop write.

Give my love to all.

Yours,

Frantz

Direct to New Orleans